

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A positioning assembly of a crimper apparatus for automatically positioning a second cylindrical member for crimping to a first cylindrical member, the first cylindrical member defining a longitudinal axis, the positioning device comprising:

a first plate and a second plate, the first plate having a first nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member, the second plate having a second nest to accommodate at least a portion of the second cylindrical member, the first nest and the second nest aligned along the longitudinal axis,

the first plate moveable relative to the second plate along the longitudinal axis, in a first position the first plate separated from the second plate along the longitudinal axis, and in a second position the first plate closer to the second plate than in the first position, when in the second position the first plate and the second plate situated such that the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member would be in predetermined placement for joining;

wherein the first plate contacts the second plate when in the second position.

2. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 1, wherein the first nest is coaxially aligned with the second nest.

3. (Previously presented) A positioning assembly of a crimper apparatus for automatically positioning a first cylindrical member for crimping to a second cylindrical member comprising:

a first plate and a second plate, the first plate having a nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member, the second plate having a nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member and/or at least a portion of the second cylindrical member, both the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member having a longitudinal axis extending in a longitudinal direction;

the first plate moveable relative to the second plate in the longitudinal direction, in a first position the first plate separated from the second plate in the longitudinal direction, and in a second position the first plate immediately adjacent to the second plate, when in the second position the first plate and the second plate situated such that the first cylindrical member and the

second cylindrical member would be in predetermined placement for joining;

wherein the first plate has a nest longitudinally aligned with a nest on the second plate and with a nest on a third plate, the third plate immediately adjacent to the second plate.

4. (Currently amended) A positioning assembly of a crimper apparatus for automatically positioning a second cylindrical member for crimping to a first cylindrical member, the first cylindrical member defining a longitudinal axis, the positioning device comprising:

_____ a first plate and a second plate, the first plate having a first nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member, the second plate having a second nest to accommodate at least a portion of the second cylindrical member, the first nest and the second nest aligned along the longitudinal axis,

_____ the first plate moveable relative to the second plate along the longitudinal axis, in a first position the first plate separated from the second plate along the longitudinal axis, and in a second position the first plate closer to the second plate than in the first position, when in the second position the first plate and the second plate situated such that the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member would be in predetermined placement for joining;

~~The positioning assembly of claim 1,~~ wherein a first biasing member biases the first plate toward the first position when activated.

5. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 4, wherein a second biasing member biases the first plate toward the second position when the first biasing member is not activated.

6. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 4 wherein the first biasing member is at least one solenoid.

7. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 5 wherein the second biasing member comprises a spring.

8. (Currently amended) A positioning assembly of a crimper apparatus for

automatically positioning a second cylindrical member for crimping to a first cylindrical member, the first cylindrical member defining a longitudinal axis, the positioning device comprising:

a first plate and a second plate, the first plate having a first nest to accommodate at least a portion of the first cylindrical member, the second plate having a second nest to accommodate at least a portion of the second cylindrical member, the first nest and the second nest aligned along the longitudinal axis,

the first plate moveable relative to the second plate along the longitudinal axis, in a first position the first plate separated from the second plate along the longitudinal axis, and in a second position the first plate closer to the second plate than in the first position, when in the second position the first plate and the second plate situated such that the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member would be in predetermined placement for joining;

~~The positioning assembly of claim 1,~~ the second plate further comprising a third nest, the third nest offset from the second nest in a direction lateral to the longitudinal axis.

9. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 8, wherein the second plate is moveable to align the third nest with the first nest along the longitudinal axis.

10. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 1, wherein the first cylindrical member is selected from the group consisting of radiopaque marker bands, stent retaining members, hubs, catheter tips, or any combination thereof.

11. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 10, wherein the second cylindrical member is a catheter tube.

12. (Original) The positioning assembly of claim 10, wherein the second cylindrical member is the inner tube of a catheter.

13-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A positioning assembly of a crimper apparatus for

automatically positioning a marker for crimping to a catheter comprising:

a first plate and a second plate, the first plate having a first nest to accommodate at least a portion of the catheter, the second plate having a second nest to accommodate at least a portion of the marker,

the first plate and the second plate moveable relative to one another to adjust a distance between the first nest and the second nest as measured along the length of the catheter;

~~The~~ the positioning assembly of ~~claim 21~~, further comprising a third nest, the third nest and the first nest located on opposite sides of the second nest, the third nest accommodating at least a portion of the catheter.

23. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 8, wherein the second nest and the third nest have different geometries.

24. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 8, the first plate further comprising a fourth nest, the fourth nest offset from the first nest in a direction lateral to the longitudinal axis.

25. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 24, wherein the first plate is moveable to align the fourth nest with the second nest along the longitudinal axis.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The positioning assembly of claim 2, further comprising a third nest that is coaxially aligned with the first nest.